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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/756,389	01/14/2004	Byoung-young Bae	1793.1130	1879

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EXAMINER

CAO, ALLEN T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2627

DATE MAILED: 06/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/756,389	Applicant(s) BAE, BYOUNG-YOUNG	
	Examiner Allen T. Cao	Art Unit 2627	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 6-12 and 14 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,5 and 13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/14/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-3, 5 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Akiba (US. 6,111,838) in view of Liou et al (Re. 36,511).

Akiba discloses a slim optical disc drive in a portable computer (column 1, lines 9-14) having a main body comprising an upper frame 19 and a lower frame 18; a tray 12 installed in the main body to be loaded and/or unloaded and comprising a spindle motor 25 to rotate an optical disc and an optical pickup 23 to record information on and/or reproduce information from the optical disc; and a front panel 15 combined with a front side of the tray (see figure 5 which discloses a front side of the tray 12 and attached by the front bezel 15) as set forth in claims 1-2 and 13.

Akiba does not clearly disclose that the front end of the upper frame is supported by the front panel (claims 1 and 13) or "at least a portion of the front panel is supported by the computer" (claim 2).

Liou et al discloses an optical disc drive having a main body including an upper frame and lower frame (23, 23) and the tray 22 including front panel door (figure 2, claim 1, lines 3-4). Liou et al inherently discloses that the front end of the upper frame is supported by the front panel (claim 8, lines 9-12) as recited in claims 1-2 and 13.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the optical drive apparatus of Akiba such that the front

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end of the upper frame is supported by the front panel to avoid the wobbling of the disc tray, thus prevent the contact between the disc and the upper frame in order to damage might occurred to the disc.

Regarding claim 3, Akiba discloses that the front panel has a support portion 54 extending toward the front end of the upper frame, the supported portion being located under the front end of the upper frame when the tray is loaded into the main body.

Regarding claim 5, Liou et al discloses the front end 58 of the upper frame (figure 2) extends toward the front panel, and the front panel has an insertion portion 54 into which the front end is inserted.

3. Claim 4 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

4. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art of record neither discloses nor suggests the optical disc drive apparatus having the combination structural limitations as set forth in claim 1 and including that "at least one protrusion extending from the front end of the upper frame toward the front panel; and an insertion portion formed on the front panel, wherein the at least one protrusion is inserted into the insertion portion" as recited in claim 4.

5. Claims 6-12 and 14 are allowed.

6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record neither discloses nor suggests the portable computer including optical disc drive apparatus having the combination structural limitations of "a

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main body comprising an upper frame and a lower frame a tray installed in the upper frame and the lower frame to be loaded and unloaded and into the main body and comprising a spindle motor to rotate an optical disc and an optical pickup to record and reproduce information in respect to the optical disc, and a front panel to be combined with a front side of the tray, wherein a front end of the upper frame is supported by the front panel; combiners to combine the front panel of the slim optical disc drive to the portable computer', and a slot into which the optical disc drive is inserted, wherein when the tray is loaded into the main body, a portion of a lower surface of the front panel is supported by a mouth of the slot".

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Allen T. Cao whose telephone number is (571) 272-7569. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Thurs (7:30 - 6:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hoa T. Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-7579. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Allen Cao
Primary Examiner

AC
June 13, 2006